



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

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**TRUCKER CONVICTED OF TRANSPORTING MARIHUANA
SENTENCED TO PRISON**

(BROWNSVILLE, TX) George Luis Alaniz, 45, of La Sara, Texas, has been sentenced to more than 11 years in federal prison, without parole, for transporting 3,521 kilograms of marihuana in his tractor trailer, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today. Alaniz was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Andrew Hanen to serve 135 months in federal prison to be followed by a five year period of supervised release.

Alaniz was convicted of the federal felony offense of Possession with Intent to Distribute Marihuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, in April 2006 after pleading guilty. During that re-arraignment hearing, the United States proffered evidence which established that February 3, 2006, a DPS trooper conducted a safety inspection of a tractor trailer driven by Alaniz in Sebastian, Willacy County, Texas. The trooper noticed irregularities in the paperwork. After receiving conflicting answers to his questions from a nervous Alaniz, the trooper sought the use of a canine trained to detect the odor of drugs. Following a positive alert by the trained canine, a search of the trailer was conducted. Investigating officers found 3,521 kilograms (7,746.2 pounds) of marihuana hidden within the produce pallets in the trailer. Alaniz later admitted he had been hired to transport the marihuana.

This case was investigated by the U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Texas Department of Public Safety and prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Oscar Ponce.

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